

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OECD COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY (CSTP): MEETING OF PERMDELS AND SECRETARIAT, OCT 11.

1. INCOMING U.S. DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY, DAVID Z. BECKLER CHAIRED INFORMAL MEETING OF SECRETARIAT AND PERMDELS, ATTENDED BY SEVENTEEN MEMBER COUNTRY SCIENCE OFFICERS. ABSENTEES WERE: BELGIUM, ICELAND, IRELAND, LUXEMBURG, NEW ZEALAND, PORTUGAL, UK, SECRETARIAT REPRESENTED BY DIRECTOR BECKLER; DEPUTIES LYON; SALOMON (SCIENCE POLICY, SCIENCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES); GASSMANN (INFORMATION, COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS); FABIAN (R&D STATISTICS); BELL (MULTINATIONALS, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER); TAMURA, HILL (TECHNOLOGY AND STRUCTURAL ADAPTION OF INDUSTRY); DRILHON (MATERIALS, CPST SECRETARY); KUSCHEL (DOCUMENTS); VINCENT (ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET). MEETING CALLED TO GO OVER AGENDA OF OCTOBER 19-20 SESSIONS, BUT DISCUSSION LARGEY DEVOTED TO RENEWAL OF CPST MANDATE.
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2. BECKLER WILL BRING UP THE MATTER OF RENEWAL OF THE CSTP MANDATE AS PART OF HIS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 19. HE HOPES THEREBY TO OBTAIN A GENERAL IDEA OF MEMBER COUNTRY THINKING AS A PRELUDE TO A FORMAL SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE END OCTOBER FOR A FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL OF THE PRESENT MANDATE.

3. THE SECRETARIAT POSITION ON THE CSTP MANDATE, AS STATED BY BECKLER, IS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: THE PRESENT MANDATE IS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO ENABLE CSTP AND SECRETARIAT TO CARRY FORWARD A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM, ORIENTED TO NEW OECD OVERALL DIRECTIONS. DEBATE OVER THE LANGUAGE OF A NEWLY DESIGNED MANDATE, TAILORED TO MEET THE PRECISE DETAILS OF ALL MEMBER COUNTRY SPECIFICS WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, BE THE SOURCE OF INNUMERABLE DIFFICULTIES, PROBABLY UNRESOLVABLE AT COUNCIL LEVEL, WITH CONSEQUENTIAL DELAYS TO THE ACTION PROGRAM. SUCH PRECISION IN SPECIFICS, MOREOVER, IS A MATTER FOR THE PROGRAM, RATHER THAN THE MANDATE. WHAT THE SECRETARIAT IS AIMING AT, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, IS A RESOUNDING, AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENT BY BOTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, WITH AN INJECTION OF CSTP PRIORITIES INTO THE CYCLE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET DISCUSSIONS FOR 1977. THE THRUST OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES WOULD BE TOWARDS CLOSER LINKAGE WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, AIMED AT VISIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROAD NATIONAL POLICY, BOTH DIRECTLY AND VIA OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE OECD'S OVERALL PROGRAM.

4. REACTION TO THIS STATEMENT WAS IMMEDIATE AND FAVORABLE. THE CANADIAN DEL THOUGHT THAT MOST COUNTRIES WOULD SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT'S POSITION. SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, SWEDEN AND THE U.S. ALL INDICATED LIKELY SUPPORT BY THEIR AUTHORITIES. RAPID TRANSMITTAL TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL, WAS URGENTLY REQUESTED BY ALL PRESENT. MISSION WILL CABLE TEXT ON RECEIPT.
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